Advancements in Health Information Exchange
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As we began the new year and start of a new decade, aside from the devastating impact of COVID-19 affecting lives all over the world, the modernization of Healthcare Information Technology (HIT) has progressively changed and improved since its inception. One of the major aspects of Health I.T. was the adoption of the Health Information Exchange (HIE). HIEs connect the electronic health record systems of all providers including clinicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, allowing them to securely share patient health information and access to vital patient health records. This will aid the provider with a comprehensive history and any current treatment plans from other providers. All the information can improve any patient care plan with a targeted approach.

One of the major advancements in HIE is the advent of Healthcurrent. Healthcurrent is a public-private partnership that improves health and wellness and private sharing of electronic health information. They are the data trustee and data manager for the Arizona healthcare community and provide secure access to patient health information. As of September of 2020, Healthcurrent has had over 700 participants and continues to grow exponentially with more than 200 data sources sending patient medical records for sharing. COVID-19 is the latest alert that is available from Healthcurrent which is shown in real time. This is critical for both public health and initiating a well community response.

Other new opportunities that have been provided by the Arizona Department of Health include immunization data sharing, patient matching/identification among multiple health registries and the expansion of current strategies. ADHS has been able to connect major labs to the HIE to report their COVID results and other reportable results in real-time.

As healthcare I.T. continues to progress, summer 2021 will be the end of the social determinants of health Closed-Loop referral system. The updated HIE 3.0 Migration and Performance will be continuous with live alerts, queries and responses. There will be decreased down time and increased performance along with migrating all 42 CFR validation to include Crisis Summary development. Contact your account manager to migrate on the new HIE 3.0 platform.